ARTICLES

To be enquired of within the

ARCHDEACONRY

OF

ESSEX,

By the Church-wardens and Sworn-men in every Parish.

And presentment to be made thereof to the

ARCHDEACON.

With particular answers unto every Article.

LONDON,

Printed by *Richard Hodgkinson*, living in *Thames street* over against *Baynards* Castle, 1662.

The tenor of the Oath ministred to the Church-wardens and Sworn-men.

YE shall sweare, that all affections, favor, hatred, hope of reward or gain, or feare of displeasure or malice set a side, you shall upon due consideration of the Articles given you in charge, present all and every such person, of, or within your Parish, as hath committed any offence or fault, or made any default mentioned in any of these Articles, or which are vehemently suspected, or otherwise defamed of any such offence, fault or default, wherein you shall deale uprightly and according to equity: neither of malice presenting any contrary to Truth, nor of corrupt affection sparing to present any, and so conceale the Truth, having in this action God before your eyes, with an earnest zeale to maintaine Truth, and to suppresse Vice: So help you God and his faithfull promises in Christ Jesus.

Articles to be enquired of within the Archdeaconry of *Essex*, for this present yeer of our Lord God 1662.

Articles concerning the Clergy.

1. WHether hath your Minister since his Majesties returne to the Crowne read the Constitutions set forth by his late Majesty, once in the yeer, upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the afternoon, before divine service: according as by the Canons he is bound.

2. Whether doth your Minister use to pray for the Kings most Excellent Majesty our gracious Queen Catherine, Mary the Queen Mother, the Duke of York, and all the Royall Progeny, giving unto him such stiled title of Supreme Governour in all causes, and over all persons, as well Ecclesiasticall as Temporall, as by law are due unto him, exhorting their parishioners to pay him obedience according to the same, and also in their said Sermons, doe pray for all Arch-bishops, Bishops, and other Ecclesiasticall persons, according to the 55. Canon.

3. Whether since the time aforesaid in the prescript forme of divine service used by your Minister upon Sundayes, Holidayes, Wednesdayes, and Fridayes, according to the book of Common-Prayer. And whether doth your Minister duly observe all the orders, rites and ceremonies prescribed in the said book of Common Prayer: as well in reading publick prayers, the Litanie, as also in administring the Sacraments in such manner and

forme, as by the book of Common Prayer by law now established is injoyned.

4 Whether doth your Minister administer the holy Communion so often, and at such time, as that every Parishioner may receive the same, at the least thrice in every yeer, whereof once at Easter, as by the book of Common Prayer is appointed. And whether doth your Minister receive the same himself on every day that he administreth it to others, kneeling at the same, and administreth it to none but to such as doe kneele at the receiving thereof, & use the words of the Institution according to the book, at every time that the Bread & Wine is Consecrated, in such manner and forme as by the proviso of the 21. Canon is directed, or wherein is he faulty, & whether is warning given by him before hand for the Communion as the Canon requireth.

5 Whether hath your Minister admitted any notorious offenders, or schismatickes to the Communion: without satisfaction, by due course of law before injoyned them; or rejected any from the Communion, who were not by publick presentment, or other open scandall infamous, and detected of some notorious crime by common Fame published in the parish.

6 Whether the Minister, together with the Church wardens and Sidesmen, do take diligent heed and care, that not only all and every of your own Parishioners do receive thrice in every yeer, as aforesaid: but also that no strangers of any other parish do forsake their own Minister and parish, to receive with you contrary to the 28. Canon.

7 Whether doth your Minister use to sign the children with the sign of the crosse when they are baptized, according to the book of Common Prayer, and whether he hath deferred, or willfully refused to baptize any infant in his parish being in danger, having been duly informed of the weakness thereof, and whether the child hath died by his default without baptisme, contrary to the 68. and 69. canons.

8 Whether is your Minister continually resident with you upon his benefice: or for how long time hath he been absent, & where is he resident for the most part, and what other benefice hath he.

9 Whether doth your Minister, being a Preacher, preach usually according to the constitutions, either in his own cure with you once every Sunday, or else in some other Church or

Chappell

Chappell nær adjoyning, where no Preacher is, or how hath he been negligent in that behalfe.

10 Whether is your Minister a Preacher allowed: if so, then by whom: if no, whether doth he procure Sermons to be preached among you once in every month at the least by such as are lawfully licensed, or doth contribute towards a licensed Preacher, if his living will beare it.

11 Whether hath your Minister another benefice: and whether doth he supply his absence by a Curate, that is sufficiently licensed to preach in that cure of his, whereone he himself is not resident: or otherwise in case he do not find a preaching Minister there, by reason of the smallnesse thereof whether doth he preach at both his benefices usually himself.

12 Whether is your Curate licensed to serve by the Bishop of this Diocese or by any other, and by whom: whether doth your Minister or Curate serve more cures then one, contrary to the 48. Canon. If so, then what other cure doth he also serve.

13 If your Minister be not licensed to preach as aforesaid, whether doth he read homilies, or take upon him to expound the Scriptures either in his own cure or elsewhere, contrary to the 49. Canon: If so, then you are to present him, and specifie the place where he so hath preached.

14 Whether hath any person been admitted to preach within your Church or Chappell within these two yers past but such as you have well known to be sufficiently licensed: whom have you so admitted? you shall present their names, and how often have any such been admitted to preach, and by whose procurement: if he were licensed, then by whom he was licensed: And whether have they, or any other preaches in your Church, not being soberly and decently apparelled according to the 74 Canon.

15 Whether doth your Lecturer and Preacher read divine Service, and administer the Sacraments in his own person twice every yer, observing all the ceremonies in the book of Common Prayer established, according to the 76 canon.

16 Whether doth your Minister every Sunday and Holiday, before evening prayer, for halfe an houre or more examin and instruct the youth, and ignorant persons of his parish, in the ten Commandements, the Articles of beliefe, and the Lords

Prayer

prayer, as also in the Catechisme set forth in the booke of Common prayer, whereby the Children of the parish may be prepared for confirmation, according to the 90. Canon.

17 Whether hath your Minister without licence from the Archbishop of the Bishop of the Diocese, his Chancellor, or from this Court, solemnized marriage betwixt any parties, the Banes being three severall Sundaies or Holidaies first published, in time of divine service, in the severall Churches or Chappells of their severall abode, according to the book of Common prayer, and the 62 Canon: and that also betwixt the houres of eight and twelve in the forenoon, contrary unto the 102 Canon.

18 Whether hath your Minister upon Sundaies at morning prayer, declare unto the Parishioners what holidayes and fasting dayes are appointed to be kept the weeke following, according to the 64 Canon, whereby they may be put in mind to prepare themselves accordingly, and to repaire to Church to publick prayer, as by law they are bound.

19 Whether doth any Minister in the Rogation dayes, use the perambulation of the circuit of the parish appointed by law, and in the same perambulation, move the people to give thanks to God for his benefits, using such Psalmes, Prayers, Homilies, as are to that end set forth.

20 Whether doth any man (being neither Minister nor Deacon) read Common prayer openly in your Church or Chappell, or administer the Sacrament of Baptisme, or solemnize matrimony, or take upon him to practise any other ministeriall duty in the Church, then is prescribed to be executed particularly by such as are either Ministers, or Deacons, & whether he knows that so doth.

21 Whether doth your Minister being a Preacher, endeavour and labour diligently with mildnesse and temperance to conferre with, and thereby to reclaim the popish Recusants in his Parish from their errors, if there be any such: and whether is he carefull in visitation of the sicke, according to the book of Common prayer, and the Canons in that case provided.

22 Whether is your Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, or Curate too much conversant with, or a favourer of Recusants, whereby he may be suspected not to be sincere in religion.

23 Whether

23 Whether hath your Minister, or any other taken upon him the place of a Minister, preached, bapti∫ed, buried (unle∫∫e in case of neceſsity) ſolemnized matrimony, churched any woman, or ministred the holy Communion in any private house or houſes: if ſo, then where, whom, and how often hath he ſo offended in any of the premiſes.

24 Whether hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private faſts or propheſies, not approved and eſtabliſhed by law or publick authority: contrary unto the 72. Canon.

25 Whether hath your Minister ſince his laſt Viſitation returned or any other perſon or perſons within your Parish uſed to meet in any private houſe or other place, and there had private conventicles, contrary to the 73. Canon? if ſo, then you ſhall preſent them all or every one of them, or as many as you know.

26 Whether doth your Minister uſe ſuch decency and comelineſs in his apparel, as by the 74. Conſtitution is injoyned him, as well at home as when he goeth abroad.

27 Whether do you know in your parish, any that having heretofore taken upon him or them, the order of Prieſthood or of a Deacon, hath ſince relinquiſhed the ſame, and betaken himſelf to the courſe of his life as a Lay-man. If ſo, then you ſhall preſent his name and the place of his abode.

28 Whether is your Minister noted or defamed to have obtained his Benefice by Simonie, or reputed to be an inconformable perſon, or doth keep any man or woman in his houſe, that are ſuſpected either to be of evill religion or bad life, himſelf to be a common drunkard, or to be a common haunter of Taverns, Alehouſes, or other ſuſpected places, a common gamester or player at dice, or other unlawfull games, a common ſwearer or blaſphemous perſon, or guilty in any other crime punishable by Eccleſiaſtical cenſures, whereby he is offenſive, and ſcandalous to his function or miniſtry.

29 Whether doth your Minister uſe the form of thanksgiving for women after their childbirth, and whether hath he admitted any thereunto that was begotten with child in adultry or fornication, without licence of his Ordinary, and whether have any married wives refuſed to come to Church, according to the booke of Common prayer, to give God thanks, after child birth.

If

If any be faulty herein, you shall present their names.

30 Whether since his Majesties return doth your Minister baptize any children in any Bason, or other vessels then the ordinary Font being placed in the Church, according to the 81. canon, or doth use to put any bason into it.

Articles concerning the Church.

WHether have you in your severall Churches and Chappels the book of Constitutions or Canons Ecclesiasticall, ready to be read by your Minister, according to his Majesties pleasure, published by his highnesse authority under the great Seale of England,

2 Whether is there in your Church or Chappell, one parchment Register Book, provided for Christnings, Marriages, & Burialls: and whether is the same duly and exactly kept, according to the constitutions in that case provided, and a transcript thereof brought in yearly within one moneth after Easter, into my Lord Bishops principall Registers office,

3 Whether have you provided the Book of Common Prayer lately commanded by his Majesties authority onely to be used, and the book of Homilies, and two Psalters: and whether have you in your Church or Chappell a Font of stone set up in the ancient usuall place: a convenient and decent Communion table standing upon a frame, with a Carpet of Silk, or some other decent stuff, and a faire Linnen cloth to lay thereon at the Communion time: and whether is the same then placed in such convenient sort within the Chancell or Church, as that the Minister may be best heard in his Prayer and administration, and that the great number may communicate: and whether are the ten Commandements set upon the East end of your Church or Chappel, where the people may best see and read them.

4 Whether have you a convenient seat for the Minister to read service in, together with a comly Pulpit set up in a convenient place, with a decent cloth or Cushion for the same; a comely large Surplice, a faire Communion Cup of Silver, & a cover agreeable for the same, withall other things and ornaments necessary for the celebration of divine service, and administration of the Sacraments, and a strong chest for the alms

of

is poꝛ, with theꝛe locks and keyes, and another cheſt foꝛ keeping of the oꝛnaments of the Church and Regiſter Book.

How many Bells are there at this preſent hanging in the ſteeple of your Parish Church. And how many have there been heretofoꝛe: whether any of your ſaid Bells have been taken downe and ſold, oꝛ made away: and what other Church goods is now wanting in your Church.

6 Whether are your Church oꝛ Chappels with the Chancels thereof, and your Parſonage oꝛ Vicarage houſe, and all other buiſding thereto belonging, in good reparations, decently and comely kept, as well within as without: the ſeates well maintained, your Church-yards well fenced and kept without ſuffe, according to the xxv. Canon: if not, then through whoſe default, and what defects are? All theſe things in theſe Articles, to be prepared, according to the Canons under the title apertaining to Churches.

Articles concerning Schoolmaſters.

WHether the Schoolmaſter oꝛ Schoolmaſters within your parish, openly oꝛ privately, in any Noble oꝛ Gentlemans houſe, oꝛ in any other place, be of good and ſincere religion, life and converſation, and be diligent in the teaching & inſtructing up of youth: and whether they have been examined, allowed and licenced foꝛ ſchoolmaſters, by the Ordinary in that behalfe: and how many ſeverall Schoolmaſters have you, and what be their names?

2 Whether your Schoolmaſter oꝛ Schoolmaſters doe themſelves receive the holy Communion as often as they ought to doe: and whether doe all their Scholliers which be of age ſufficient, and of capacity by inſtruction, to receive the Lords Supper, come to the Communion either in your Church, oꝛ where their parents dwell, once every yeaꝛ, and be diligent to heare Common prayer.

3 Whether the ſchoolmaſter oꝛ ſchoolmaſters, either private oꝛ publick, doe teach their ſcholliers the Catechiſme authoꝛized by publick authority, at the leaſt once every week, and doe inſtruct and examine them in the ſame, oꝛ doe teach any other Catechiſme, and what catechiſme it is that they doe ſo teach.

4 Whether your ſchoolmaſter oꝛ ſchoolmaſters, oꝛ any of them be known oꝛ ſuſpected to read unto their ſcholliers privately any unlawfull bookes, oꝛ privately to inſtruct them in their

yeeing years, either in popery, superstition, prophanenesse, or disobedience, contempt to his Majesty, and his lawes Ecclesiasticall by publick authority allowed.

5 What Recusant Papists are there in your parish, and whether doe they, or any of them keep any schoolmaster in their house, which comely not to Church to heare Divine service and receive the Communion; what is his name, and how long hath he taught.

6 Whether the Schoolmaster or Schoolmasters within your parish, doe teach his or their Scholliers any other Examiner then that which is called the Kings Examiner, set forth by the authority of King Henry the Eight, teaching the prescript forme thereof, whereby the Scholliers may perfectly understand their Examiner rules and constructions.

Articles concerning Parishioners, and others of the Laity.

WHether is there any within your parish, that hath or doth impugne the Kings Majesties supremacy and authority in causes Ecclesiasticall, or doe any way or in any part impeach the same, being reckoned to the Crowne by the lawes of this Realme established in that behalfe.

2 Whether is there any in your parish that denieth the Church of England, by law established under the Kings most Excellent Majesty, to be a true and Apostolicall Church, teaching and maintaining the doctrine of the Apostles.

3 Whether is there any in your parish, that doe impugne or speake against the rites and ceremonies established in the Church of England, or the lawfull use of them: you shall present their names.

4 Whether are there any in your parish, that doe impugne the government of the Church of England, under the Kings most Excellent Majesty, by Arch-bishops, Bishops, Deanes, Archdeacons, and the rest that beare office in the same, affirming that the same is Antichristian or repugnant to the word of God.

5 Whether is there any in your parish, that impugne the forme of consecration and ordaining of Arch-bishops, Bishops, Priests or Deacons, affirming that the same is repugnant to the word of God, or that they, who are so ordered in the same forme, are not lawfully made.

6 Whether is there any in your parish that doth hold or frequent any conventicles or private meetings, and there doe confer

set or agree upon any private orders, other then such as are by the canons set forth by publick authority, to be by them or any others in Church government observed.

7 Whether any persons have lurked or tipled in Taverns or Alehouses, on Sundaies or other Holydaies, or used his or their manuall craft, trade, or keep their shops open upon the said dayes or any of them, especially in the time of Divine service.

8 Whether are there in your parish, that doe or have prophaned (since his Majesties last generall pardon) the Lords day called Sunday or other Holiday, contrary to the orders of the Church of England prescribed in that behalfe.

9 Whether hath any person in your parish quarrelled, stricken, or used any violence unto, or with your Minister, or any other in the Church or Church-yard, or used himself disorderly in the Church, by filthy and prophane talke, or any other rude and immodest behaviour.

10 Whether is that due reverence and humble submission used in your Church or Chappell, in the time of divine service, as by the 18. constitution is prescribed: and whether each one in the Church or Chappell, doe apply and order himself there in time of divine service, as by the latter part of the same constitution is most commendably enjoyned.

11 Whether the Churchwardens and Questmen from time to time doe their diligence in not suffering any idle persons or loyterers to abide either in the Church-yard or church-porch in service or sermon time, but causing them either to come into the church to heare divine service or to depart, and not to disturbe such as are hearers there.

12 Whether the Churchwardens doe provide against every Communion with the advice of the Minister, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good and wholesome Wine for the number of the Communicants that shall receive, and that to be brought in a cleane and sweet standing Pot of Pewter or other pure mettle?

13 Whether have any in your parish been Godfathers or Godmothers to their own Children? or whether your Minister, or any Godfathers or Godmothers have used or doe use any other forme, answer, or speech in Baptisme then is in the book of Common Prayer appointed?

14 Whether is there any in your parish, that doe refuse to

have their children baptized, or themselves to receive the Communion at the hands of your Minister, because he is no preacher? you shall present their names.

15 Whether do all Fathers, Mothers, Masters, and Mistresses, cause their children, servants, and apprentises, to come to the Catechisme, upon the Sundaies and Holydaies before evening prayer to hears and to be instructed and taught therein: and those that doe not their duties herein, you shall present their names.

16 Whether have you or your predecessors Churchwardens there, suffered since the last pardon, any playes, feasts, banquets, churchales, drinkings or any other prophane usages, to be kept in your Church, Chappell or Churchyard.

17 How many inhabitants within your parish, men or women, above the age of 16. years doe refuse to frequent divine service established by publick authority of this Realme, or to receive the holy Communion, or are negligent therein.

18 Whether do any of the Inhabitants of your said parish entertain within their house, any sojourners, lodgers, or any common resorters and guests, who refuse to frequent Divine Service, or receive the holy Communion as aforesaid: what be their names: of what quality or condition are they?

19 Whether are any Recusants of insolent behaviour not without publick offence: that doe boldly bulle themselves in seducing and withdrawing others, either abroad or in their own families, by instructing their children in a contrary Religion, or by refusing to entertain any, especially in place of greatest service, or trust, but such as concure with them in their Opinions of Religion, and what be their names that so doe.

20 Whether were you the Churchwardens and Questmen chosen by the consent of the Minister and Parishioners in Easterweek, according unto the 89 and 90 canons, and whether have the Churchwardens before you given up a just account for their time, and delivered to you their successors, whatsoever money or other things of right belonging to the church, which was in their hands according to the 89 canon.

21 Whether doe all persons above the age of fifteen years usually resort to hear divine service upon Sundayes and Holydaies appointed, and whether hath each one of your Parishioners, being above the age of fifteen years as aforesaid, received the holy com-

Communion thrice a yeer, chiefly once at Easter in your parish Church kneeling, if no, then you shall present their names, which have not so done.

22 Whether have you a fit Parish Clarke aged twenty yeers at the least, of honest conversation, and sufficient for reading and writing, and whether be he paid his wages without fraud, according to the most ancient custome of your parish: if not, then by whom he is so defrauded and denied, and whether he be chosen by the Parson or Vicar, or by whom, according to the 91. Canon.

23 Whether have any in your Parish since his Majesties returne been married within the prohibited degrees, forbidden by the law, and expressed in a certain Table, published by Authority in the yeer Anno one thousand five hundred sixty and three? If so, then you shall present their names, and whether have you the said Table publickely set up in your Church, and fastened to some convenient place?

24 Whether doth any heretofore divorced, keep company with any other at bed and bord as man and wife? what be their names? when and where they married: and how long have they so continued.

25 Whether have you any in your parish to your knowledge, or by common fame and report which have committed adultery, fornication or incest, or any bawds, harbourers or receivers of such persons, or publickly suspected thereof, which have not been publickly punished to your knowledge? If so, then with whom: and whether are there any which are by common fame and report reputed and taken to be common drunkards, blasphemers, of Gods holy name, common and usuall swearers, filthy speakers, railers, sowers of discord amongst their neighbours; or speakers against Ministers marriages, Usurers, contrary to the statute made in the 37. yeare of Henry the Eight. Symoniacall persons, fighters, brawlers or quarrellers in Church or Church-yard? you shall not faile to present their names.

26 Whether since his Majesties returne have any in your parish received or harboured any woman gotten with child out of wedlock, and suffered them again to depart without penance, first inflicted upon them by the Ordinary: you shall truly present as well the party harbouring as harboured and who is suspected to have committed incontinency with her.

27 Whether

27 Whether any person or persons suspected or detected heretofore of incontinency, and therefore departing out of your parish, for a season is now returned againe, or in what place else is he or she now abiding, to your knowledge, or as you have heard; you shall not faile to present the whole truth in that behalfe.

28 Whether there be any person or persons, Ecclesiasticall or Temporall within your parish that have retained and kept in their custody or that read, set utter, disperse, carry or deliver to others any English or Latine books or libels, set forth either on this side or printed beyond the seas, by Papists or Sectaries, against the Kings Supremacy in causes Ecclesiasticall, against true Religion and Catholick doctrine, now publickly professed in the Church or the government or discipline of the Church of England, now within this Realm received and established by Common Authority, and what their names and surnames are.

29 Whether there be any in your parish who are known, or suspected to conceale or keep privily in their houses any Masse bookes, portises, Ujsolaries, or other books of Popery or superstition whereby the people are seduced.

30 Whether there be any Inkeepers, Alewives, Victuallers, or Tiplers, that suffer or doe admit any person or persons in their houses to eate, drinke, or play at dice, cards, tables, bowles, or such like games in the time of Common Prayer or Sermon on Sundayes, or Holydayes: or any Butchers, or other that commonly use to sell meat or other things in the time of Common Prayer, preaching or reading of Homilies.

31 Whether hath your Minister or any of your parish without the consent or privity of the Ordinary, caused any to doe penance or be punished either openly: or otherwise for any crime punishable by the Ecclesiasticall lawes onely, and what be the names of the parties that have been so punished, and in what manner.

32 Whether there be any in your parish who will come to heare the Sermon, but will not come to the publick prayer appointed by the book of Common prayer, making a schisme or division (as it were) betweene the use of publick prayer, and preaching; and whether there be any who being present at publick prayer, doe not devoutly and humbly kneele upon their knees, at such times as by the book of Common prayer they are appointed; to wit, when they make a generall confession of

their

their sins: when all prayers and collects are read, and at the receiving of the holy Communion &c. and what are their names that have at any time shewed themselves undutifull and unreverent in that behalfe.

33 Whether there be any married woman or others within your parish, which after child birth, refuse or contemn to come to the Church to give God thanks for their safe delivery, and to have their prayers publickly appointed in that behalfe by the book of common prayer.

34 Whether any within your parish, do resort into barnes, stalls, woods, pridate houses, or to any extraordinary places for expoſition of Scriptures or conferences together: or that be drawers, or perſwaders of others to any such Schismaticall conventicle.

35 Whether any doe keep their children unbaptized longer then is convenient, unleſſe that it be for urgent occaſion: and whether any doe carry their children from the parish they are borne in, to other parishes to be baptized, and so refuse their own parish: or doe bring Strange Ministers into their own houses, to baptize their children privately, according to their own fantasies.

36 Whether doe you know of any other matter of Eccleſiaſticall cognizance, worthy the presentment in your judgment above not expreſſed, which you hold fit to be reformed, and if you doe, you shall likewiſe present the same by virtue of your oathes.

37 Whether doe you know of any within your parish, that refuse to pay towards the ſupport or repaire of your parish Church, or the due and neceſſary Ornaments of the same, if you doe you shall present the same.

FINIS.

You see you still preserve the flame.

Archbishop Harcourt's Letters